

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections of the claims.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-4, 6 and 9-15

Claims 1-4, 6 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zisman. Zisman is cited for teaching a surface active composition for displacing aqueous or organic liquid films from solid surfaces, wherein the composition contains a fluorinated polyether which provides the surface activity to the composition and optionally contains fluoroalcohols and perfluoroalkane solvents (which may include perfluorohexane).

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 6, 11-15 (claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled) and new claim 16 would not have been obvious over Zisman.

(1) Claims 1-4, 6 and 11-15

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of cancelled claims 9 and 10. Thus, claim 1 now recites that the composition therein contains between 0.1 and 30% by weight of the polyfluorinated alcohol(s) and between 0.01 and 0.5% by weight of the surface-active agent(s). Claims 2-4, 6 and 11-15 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and, therefore, also contain these limitations.

Although claim 1 in Zisman recites a composition containing a fluorinated polyether having the specific formula set forth therein, from 0 to 99 percent by volume of a solvent selected from the group recited therein, and from 0 to 1 percent by weight of a solute selected from, among other things, a fluoroalcohol, the specification of the patent does not support an embodiment of the composition that would contain 0.1-30% by weight of the fluoroalcohol and 0.01-0.5% by weight of the polyether. Zisman teaches that when OPFP-n is used as a solvent, the solute may be, among other things, a fluoroalcohol (col. 2, lines 53-54). The only

circumstance in Zisman in which the polyether and the fluoroalcohol are both present is when the polyether is the solvent and the fluoroalcohol is the solute. Zisman teaches that the solute concentration is from 0.02 to 1 percent by weight (col. 2, lines 60-61). In Example 3 of the patent, Zisman teaches a composition containing 99.1% by weight of OPFP-3 and 0.9% by weight of perfluorooctanol-1.

Zisman does not teach or suggest a composition containing both OPFP-n and fluoroalcohol in solute amounts. When used in combination with a fluoroalcohol, the OPFP-n in Zisman is used in a solvent amount.

Thus, for at least this reason, Zisman does not teach or suggest and would not render obvious the composition set forth in Applicants' claims 1-4, 6 and 11-15.

(2) New Claim 16

As noted in the Office Action, the agent which provides surface activity to the Zisman composition is a fluorinated polyether. In the composition set forth in Applicant's new claim 16, the surface active agent consists of the cationic surface active agent recited in the claim. Thus, the surface active agent used in the Zisman composition is excluded from Applicant's claimed composition.

Zisman requires the presence of the fluorinated polyether disclosed therein and does not teach or suggest the omission of such compound. Thus, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 16 would not have been obvious over Zisman.

B. Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 7-12

Claims 1-3 and 7-12 are rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zisman in view of Bil. The Office Action states that Zisman teaches the use of a combination of a fluorinated polyether compound as a solvent and a fluoroalcohol to displace liquids from solid

surfaces for short periods of time. Bil is cited for teaching compositions for dewetting solid surfaces, wherein the compositions contain a surface active material prepared by the reaction of alkyl phosphoric acids, fluorinated amine and a quaternary ammonium chloride in solution with a halogenated solvent. Bil is further cited for teaching that the use of such surface active agents results in a reduction in deemulsification time and an acceleration in the separation of the aqueous phase and the organic phase in the dewetting process. According to the Office Action, it would have been obvious to use the surface active agent described in Bil in the dewetting compositions taught in Zisman in order to allow the emulsion formed by the dewetting composition with the extracted water to better separate it into two phases, allowing the aqueous phase to be removed faster.

Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11, 12 (claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled) and new claim 16 would not have been obvious over Zisman in view of Bil.

(1) Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11 and 12

Zisman does not teach or suggest a composition containing between 0.1 and 30% by weight of a polyfluorinated alcohol(s) and between 0.01 and 0.5% by weight of the surface-active agent(s). Bil also does not teach this and, therefore, does not cure this deficiency in Zisman's teachings.

Thus, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Zisman in view of Bil would not have rendered claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11 and 12 obvious.

(2) New Claim 16

As noted previously, Zisman requires the presence of the fluorinated polyether compound recited therein, while Applicant's new claim 16 excludes such compound. Bil

provides no motivation to one skilled in the art to modify Zisman in such a way as to omit the fluorinated polyether therefrom.

Thus, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Zisman in view of Bil would not have rendered claim 16 obvious.

C. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103(a) rejections be withdrawn and that claims 1-4, 6-8 and 11-16 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By: _____

Frederick F. Calvetti, Reg. No. 28,557

1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone: (202) 659-2811

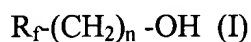
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

Date: February 5, 2002

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 14 and 15 as set forth below:

1. (Five Times Amended) A dewetting composition, consisting essentially of a solution of between 0.01 and 0.5% by weight of at least one surface-active agent in a mixture of at least one fluorinated solvent and between 0.1 and 30% by weight of at least one water-immiscible polyfluorinated alcohol of formula:



in which n is equal to 1 or 2 and R_f represents a linear or branched perfluoroalkyl radical containing from 4 to 8 carbon atoms,

wherein said composition does not exhibit a flash point under standard determination conditions (ASTM standard D 3828) and wherein the fluorinated solvent is a saturated or unsaturated fluorinated hydrocarbon containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

14. (Twice Amended) The composition according to Claim [9] 1, wherein the content of polyfluorinated alcohol(s) is between 0.5 and 5%.

15. (Twice Amended) The composition according to Claim [10] 1, wherein the content of [a] the surface-active agent(s) is between 0.04 and 0.2%.